From the Desk of James V. Nixon, President & CEO of Community Council

April is National Women’s History Month

Childhood should be carefree, playing in the sun; not living a nightmare in the darkness of the soul.
-- Dave Pelzer, A Child Called “It”

National Child Abuse Prevention Month allows us to acknowledge the importance of working with families and communities to prevent child abuse and neglect and to promote the social and emotional wellbeing of our children and families. The theme for this year’s National Child Abuse Prevention Month is Strong and Thriving Families.

During the month of April and throughout the year, it is important to implement child abuse and neglect prevention strategies and activities with our program participants, staff and our community. We must focus on the entire system of supports and relationships that affect our children. For more information for highlighting Child Abuse Prevention Month at your agency or in the community, go to: https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/preventing/preventionmonth/

Test your knowledge of the Protective Factors with interactive scenarios at: www.childwelfare.gov/topics/preventing/preventionmonth/resources/protective-factors-in-practice/

Our mission is to provide comprehensive mental health and educational services to adults and children. We believe that everyone deserves the opportunity to develop a treatment process that best supports their physical, mental, and social well-being. We provide a range of behavioral health services for abused and troubled children, youth, adults, and their families.
Action begins with a desire. Naturally, heartfelt compassion leads to action. The vulnerable and disadvantaged in this world need more than pity—they need to see love operate selflessly and sacrificially.

“It is not enough to be compassionate. You must act.”
- Dalai Lama
How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.  

- Anne Frank

Best Practices, Policy and Research

Early Self-Control Improvement Programs for Children Are Effective  
PA First Report on Child Abuse Fatalities  
After reviewing two years of child abuse fatalities and near-fatalities statewide, state human services officials have released the following report: http://commongood.unitedforimpact.org/sites/default/files/uploads/abuse%20report.pdf

US Deaths at All-Time High
Deaths from alcohol, drugs and suicide in 2017 hit the highest level since federal data collection started in 1999. Read full story at: https://www.usatoday.com

Guidance on Strategies to Promote Best Practice in Antipsychotic Prescribing for Children and Adolescents
The safe and effective use of antipsychotic medications for children and adolescents in the United States is a critical issue in mental and substance use treatment. To address this issue, SAMHSA partnered with national experts to develop this guidance. The document provides a “bird’s eye view” of systems-level strategies to inform public and private sector decision-makers, prescribing clinicians, and other key stakeholders in designing and implementing antipsychotic monitoring programs to improve outcomes for youth with mental disorders across the nation. Download the guidance at: https://store.samhsa.gov/

Behavioral, Emotional, and Social Training: Competent Learners Achieving School Success (BEST in CLASS)
Evidence Rating: Effective - One study
This classroom-based intervention, delivered by teachers, is designed to prevent emotional and behavioral disorders in high-risk children. Intervention group children showed statistically significant improvement in behaviors, social and behavioral competence, and student-teacher relationships, compared with control group children. Intervention group teachers showed statistically significant improvements in instructional practices. Learn more at: https://www.crimesolutions.gov/

Report Describes Wide-Ranging Projects Aimed at Strengthening Families
The Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation (OPRE) report describes initiatives on responsible fatherhood, relationship building (for couples, parents and children, healthy marriages, etc.), home visiting, positive youth development, overall capacity building, family strengthening for American Indians and Alaskan Natives, and cross-cutting research. It also provides a list of additional links to more information on the projects and initiatives. The report, Family Strengthening Research, is available at https://www.acf.hhs.gov/. 

Following Their Lead: Youth in Action – A Film
While the rate of incarcerated youth has fallen over the past decade, there are still over 48,000 youth residing in juvenile correctional facilities, and minorities are disproportionally represented. Brave New Films released a short film on YouTube that highlights the work that RISE (Reinvesting In Supportive Environments) is doing to end youth incarceration.

Principles of Community-Based Behavioral Health Services for Criminal Justice-Involved Individuals: A Research-Based Guide
This newly released Guide by SAMHSA provides a foundation for realizing a quality, community-based behavioral health treatment system that is responsive to all individuals with mental and substance use disorders. The Principles guide is composed of eight guiding principles, frequently asked questions, resources for further reading, and a glossary of terms for behavioral health providers and criminal justice professionals. Download the Principles at: https://store.samhsa.gov/
Happy Anniversary!

These individuals are celebrating one or more years of service at Community Council Health Services this month: Charlotte Walker (20), Wallace Cherry (14), George Banks, III (12), James V. Nixon (11), Jeremy Johnson (10), Valerie Wilson (10), Arnold King (9), Paula Woodward (8), Kiara Anderson (4), Zainab Saccoh (3), Shari DeCastro (2), Julie Carter (1), MacKenzie Vaughn (1), Misty Torres (1)

Happy Birthday to You!

Join us in helping us celebrate those who have their birthdays in March:

- Douglas Faxon, Jr. (4/3)
- Darlene Simon (4/5)
- Lisa Ann Wray (4/8)
- Marisa Ward (4/8)
- Summer Brunson (4/15)
- Marcus Shahid (4/18)
- Adrienne Hardy (4/19)
- Aaliyah Sellers (4/21)
- Aileen Hill (4/21)
- Wanda E. Moore (4/21)
- Kodjo Adovor (4/22)
- Tamima Ahmed (4/24)
- Je'Van Sales (4/24)
- Juliana Omile (4/24)
- Lavenah Barksdale (4/25)
- Renee McHenry (4/27)
- Charles Richards (4/27)
- Cordell Everett (4/28)
- Corine Aimes (4/29)
Becoming Trauma Informed: Practice Skills Workshop
Tuesday, April 16, 2019
9:00 to 11:00 am or 12:00 noon
123 S. Broad St, 6th Fl, Philadelphia
The Health Federation of Philadelphia is offering this workshop offers training series on trauma-informed practice for people working with children. Registration is through the PAKey PD Registry (https://papdregistry.org/). Create a login to register. Training available at your location – email msullivan@healthfederation.org for questions or for more information. Funding through PHMC-PD makes this training possible. Class fees are $7 or $14.

National Association of Black Social Workers 51st Annual National Conference
Honoring Our Legacy: Constructing Social Policy that Shapes Our Future
April 23-27, 2019
Atlanta Marriott Marquis, Atlanta, GA
This is an educational conference that will feature prominent keynote speakers, inspiring and motivating opening institutes. Instructional workshops will be conducted on practice, social policy and social justice issues that affect the everyday lives and destiny of Black individuals, Black families and Black communities. For more information, go to: http://nabsw.org

TA Network Webinar: Effectively Integrating the CANS into the Wraparound Process
April 30, 2019 – 2:00 to 3:30 pm
The Wraparound process is the most common care coordination model for youth with complex needs and their families. Meanwhile, the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) is now the most widely used assessment tool in public child-serving systems. This webinar is based on shared work of the National Wraparound Implementation Center (NWIC) and Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago (organizational home of the CANS) to develop a guidance document around how to best integrate the CANS into the Wraparound process. Presenters will describe potential ways to effectively coordinate the CANS assessment with Wraparound practice – including "Do’s" and "Don’ts" – across the four phases of Wraparound.

TF-CBT Advanced Training
May 9 & 10, 2019
Registration for this two-day training is now open! This free training will be hosted by George Junior Republic, at 233 George Junior Road, Grove City, PA 16127 from 9:00am - 4:30 pm both days. Mental health professionals will be better able to understand treatment for sexually exploited children. Visit the EPICCenter page at http://www.epicenter.psu.edu/node/771 for more information or to access registration. Registration deadline is April 19, 2019. NASW credits available, travel stipends available on a first come, first serve basis.

2019 Pennsylvania Mental Health & Wellness Conference
May 20-21, 2019
Holiday Inn Harrisburg-Hershey, Grantville, PA 17028
Join us May 20-21, 2019, as three leading statewide mental health organizations unite to host the Pennsylvania Mental Health and Wellness Conference in Harrisburg. NAMI Keystone Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Mental Health Consumers’ Association (PMHCA), and the Mental Health Association in Pennsylvania (MHAPA) invite peers, family members, advocates, and professionals to experience this one-of-a-kind event that will provide a platform to learn, share, and network. For more information, go to: https://www.namikeystonepa.org/education/conferences/2019-pennsylvania-mental-health-and-wellness-conference/

2019 National IV-E Roundtable for Child Welfare Training and Education
Stockton University, Child Welfare Education Institute
May 21–23, Atlantic City, NJ
The Roundtable is a yearly gathering of representatives from public and tribal child welfare agencies and their university partners. Our goal is to share our resources to build a strong child welfare workforce through training and education. For more information, go to: https://stockton.edu/child-welfare-education-institute/iv-e-roundtable/
Licensed BSCs
A licensed professional as a Psychologist, Social Worker, Clinical Social Worker, Marriage and Family Therapy, or a Professional Counselor OR Pennsylvania Licensed Behavioral Specialist Consultant in good standing. Requirements include:

• Master's Degree or higher in school, clinical, developmental or counseling psychology, special education, social work, speech therapy, occupational therapy, professional counseling, behavioral analysis, nursing or another related field.

• Verification of substantial relationship of major to behavioral specialist practice: school, university or program must verify that major course of study that has a substantial relationship to the practice of behavioral specialist.

• Specific Coursework: 90 hours of evidence-based coursework 3 hours of professional ethics 16 hours of assessment coursework or training 8 hours of crisis intervention 5 hours of family collaboration 18 hours of autism-specific coursework/training 16 hours of instructional strategies & best practices, 8 hours of co-morbidity & medications ,and 16 hours of addressing specific skill deficits training.

• At least two (2) years verified post-master's experience providing behavioral health treatment to children (at least one of which is experience using behavior analysis/modification techniques).